

L9(4.6) - Factoring Strategies

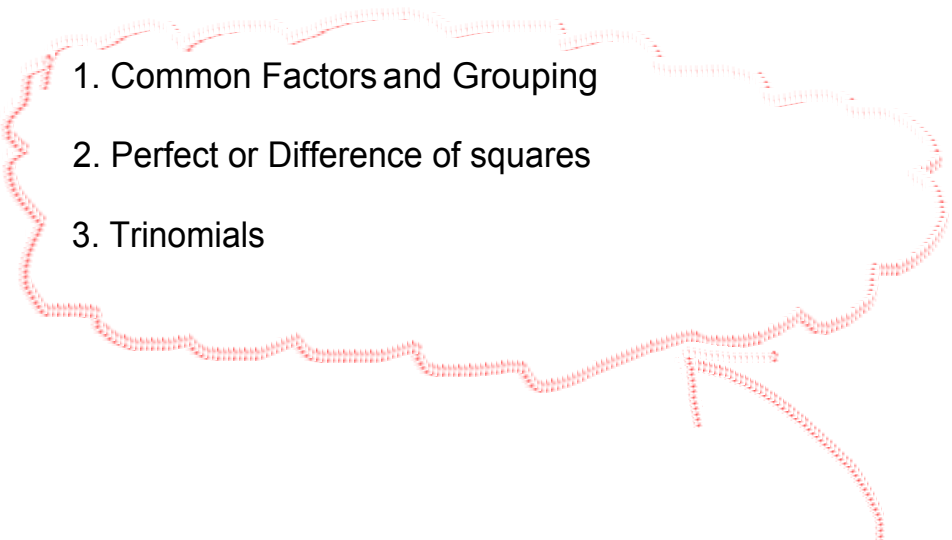
Consider the factoring methods we have explored so far:

1. Common Factors $3x^2 + 6x + 9$
2. Factoring by Grouping $ac + ad + bc + bd$
3. Simple Trinomials $x^2 + bx + c$
4. Complex Trinomials $ax^2 + bx + c$, $a \neq 1$
5. Perfect Square Trinomials $a^2 + 2ab + b^2$
6. Difference of Squares $a^2 - b^2$

It is often sufficient to use only one method, but there are times when they must be combined. This occurs most often when **common factors** are involved.

Mar 29-11:14 AM

Break it down further:

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1. Common Factors and Grouping
 2. Perfect or Difference of squares
 3. Trinomials

Look for these!

Mar 29-11:14 AM

Always check for common factors before you start **and** after you think you are done.

When your are asked to "fully factor" or "factor completely", all common factors must also be accounted for.

Ex.1 Remove Common Factors First and Last

$$\begin{aligned}
 &4x^2 - 20x + 24 \\
 &= 4(x^2 - 5x + 6) \quad \text{MAN} \quad \begin{matrix} -20x \\ 96-20-12-8 \end{matrix} \\
 &= 4(x-2)(x-3) \quad \left| \begin{aligned} &= 4x^2 - 12x - 8x + 24 \\ &= 4x(x-3) - 8(x-3) \\ &= (4x-8)(x-3) \\ &= 4(x-2)(x-3) \end{aligned} \right.
 \end{aligned}$$

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Ex.2 Determine the best strategies required to factor:

(a) $x^2 + 8x + 15$

MAN

(d) $4x^2 + 8x + 4$

GCF

$= 4(x^2 + 2x + 1)$

$= 4(x+1)^2$

Perfect square

(b) $6x^2 + 19x + 8$

MAN SPI

(e) $9x^2 + 48x + 64$

Perfect square

(c) $40x^2 - 250$

GCF 10

Difference
of
Squares

(f) $-5x^2 + 60x - 180$

GCF

Perfect square

Assigned Work: p. 236 # 1, (6-8)ace, 9, 10, 12, 14ac, 17*

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